Recommendations for High Priority Drinking Water Studies and Actions for the Delta Drinking Water Council

1. Operations/Storage/Conveyance/Modeling

   Provide sufficient staff and funding resources to re-activate functions of the Drinking Water Quality Operations Work Group to provide modeling support for the CALFED Drinking Water Improvement Strategy and Implementation Plan development.

   a) Integrate projects related to operations, new facilities and source control that will influence water quality for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive technical assessment (examples include South Delta facilities, Delta Cross Channel operations, screened through-Delta facility, in-Delta storage, Bay-Area Blending/Exchange Project, ERP water purchases, gaming, etc.)

2. Regional Water Quality Exchanges/Blending

   Support feasibility studies in Stage 1A. CALFED funding dependent on or driven by:

   a) Bundling with other CALFED projects that would degrade Delta water quality
   b) Availability of funding sources (cost-share potential)
   c) Progress of efforts

3. Source Reduction/Control

   a) Continue to support the Drinking Water Constituents Work Group work plan to assess sources and magnitudes of loads of drinking water constituents of concern, including additional monitoring. Develop a strawman or conceptual model for how the water quality information will be used, in order to focus and refine the work plan.
   b) As a result of the water quality assessment activities, address high priority loads and perform source reduction projects. Carry out pilot projects for source control prioritized according to baseline water quality information to test effectiveness of source control actions.
   c) During Stage 1A, continue to implement source control programs for Veale/Byron Tract, North Bay Aqueduct and San Joaquin basin salinity management. Implement other source control projects (e.g., recreational discharges, runoff into the aqueduct, advanced wastewater treatment and other projects listed in the CALFED Framework for Action) through proposal solicitation and other processes.
   d) Support the development of the CVRWQCB Drinking Water Policy, which could involve the need for additional staff resources.

4. Treatment

   Support feasibility studies and demonstration projects for development of large scale treatment facilities for:

   a) Integrating combinations of advanced treatment options, i.e., UV disinfection, ozone and membranes

b) UV disinfection, with particular emphasis on scale-up issues and development of operating criteria
c) Desalination, with particular emphasis on disposal of brine

5. Process for Project Selection and Funding Allocation
Develop a project selection process for the Drinking Water Program that addresses both directed studies and the need for a proposal solicitation process. (The DWCWG wants to send a clear message to the DDWC that a much more open project selection process is needed for the drinking water projects in Stage 1A and subsequent stages of implementation of the CALFED solution. A good model is the Ecosystem Restoration Project selection process.)

6. Science Program
Ensure adequate drinking water expertise is represented in the development, structure and functions of the CALFED Science Program. Clarify future role of Science Leader with that of the Drinking Water Constituents Work Group, the Delta Drinking Water Council, CALFED lead implementing agencies, CALFED staff, etc.

7. Provide sufficient staffing and funding resources for the CALFED Drinking Water Quality Program to ensure full consideration of drinking water quality issues in the various CALFED activities (this includes participation from outside and inside CALFED).